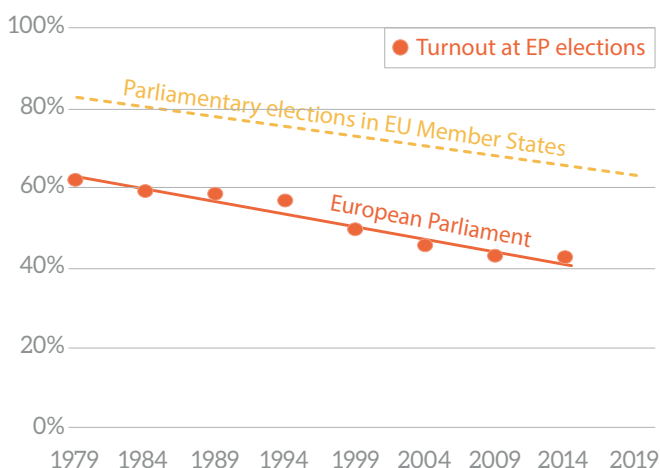


Living in the EU: European Elections and Democracy

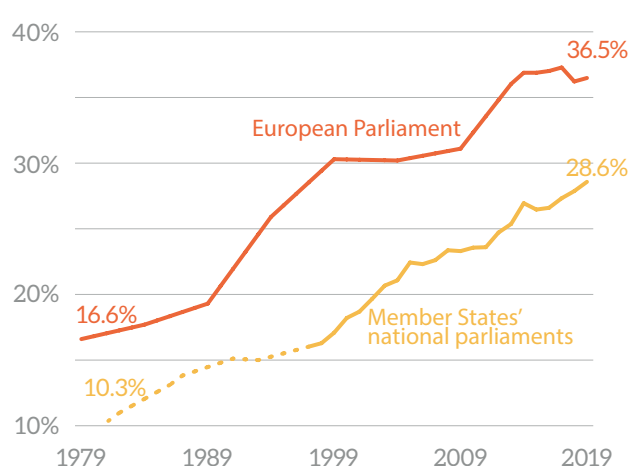
The concept of participation lies at the heart of the European project, however recent years have seen a decrease in electoral turnout in contrast to the broader feelings of EU citizens of being part of a wider project promoting prosperity, social cohesion, unity and tolerance. Participation differs among different groups, and among the most explored is the gender gap in political participation, even though progress has been achieved over the years. Nowadays many European citizens show an increasing attachment to the EU, and its democracy, despite the perception of corruption and the challenges to press freedom affecting Member States to different degrees.

Trends in turnout at national and EP elections



Turnout is calculated as the total number of votes as a percentage of the total number of registered voters. All national elections taking place in the same year are totalled to generate an annual EU-wide percentage.

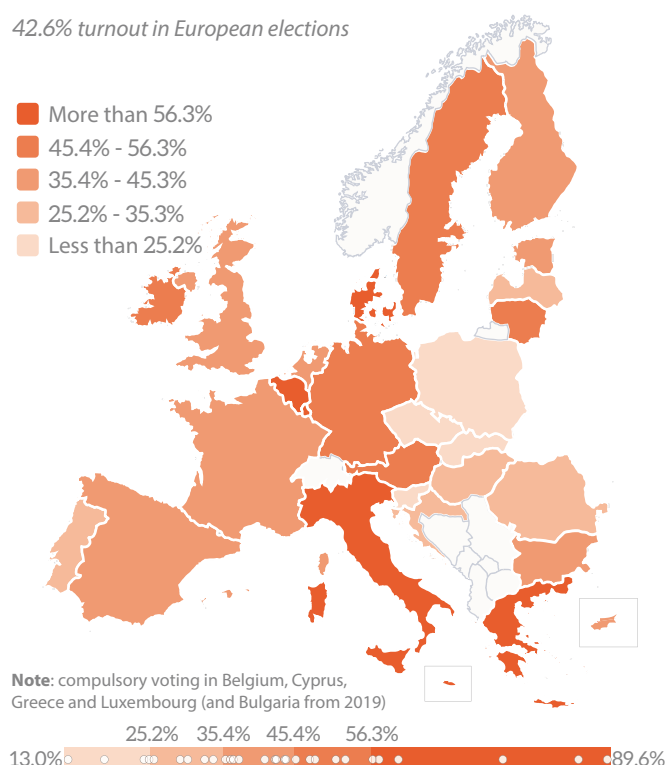
Women in EP and national parliaments



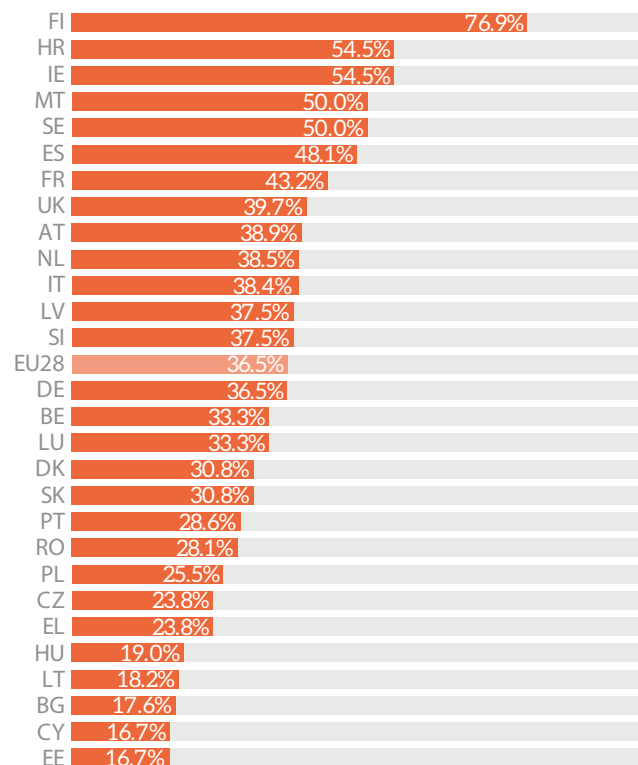
The line for national parliaments up to 1996 is illustrative only, based on data available for a limited number of Member States.

Turnout at EP elections (2014)

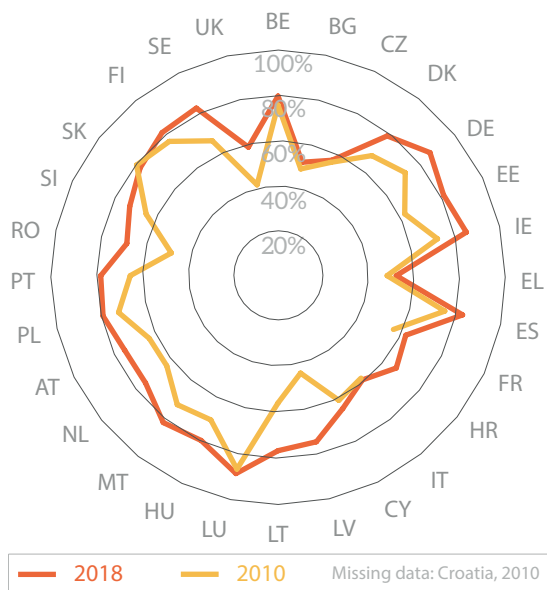
42.6% turnout in European elections



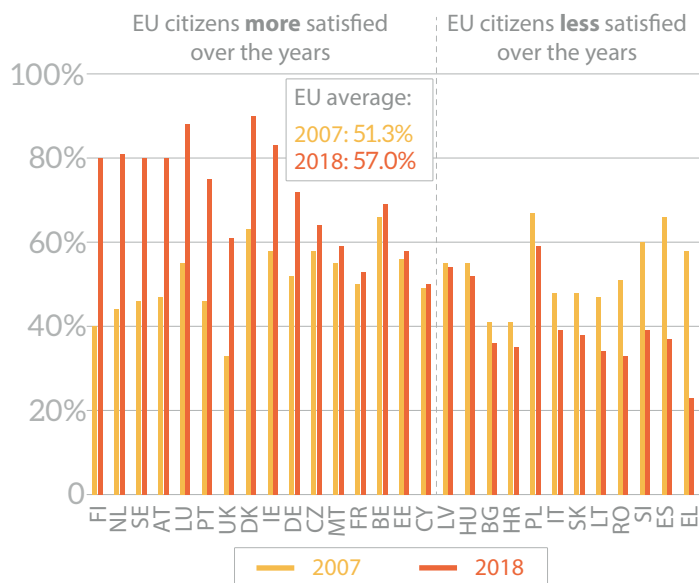
Women MEPs by Member State (as of 31 March 2019)



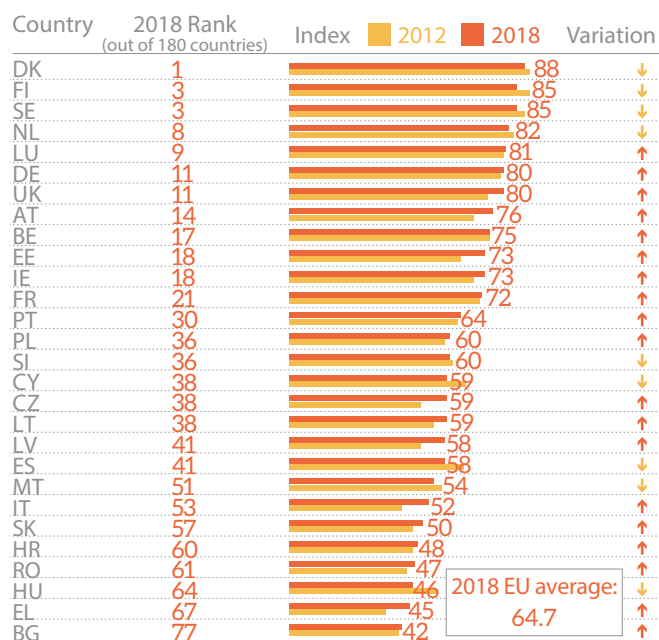
Do Europeans feel themselves citizens of the EU?



Satisfaction of Europeans with the way democracy works in the EU



Corruption Perceptions Index (2018 index)



Note: the index, which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, according to experts and business people, uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean. More than two-thirds of countries worldwide score below 50 on the 2018 CPI, with an average score of just 43. EU countries' scores rank between 42 and 88 with an average score of 64.7. Between 2012 and 2018, nine Member States decreased their score.

Notes

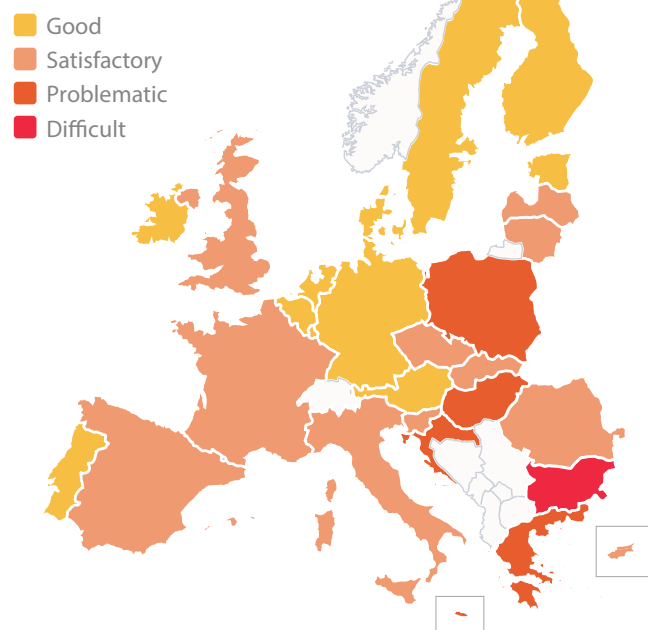
GlobalStat is a project developed by the European University Institute's Global Governance Programme (Italy) and the Francisco Manuel dos Santos Foundation (Portugal).

Data sources for page 1: Trends in turnout at national and EP elections data are from [IDEA](#); Women in EP and national parliaments from [EP](#) and [IPU](#); Turnout at EP elections data are from [IDEA](#); Women MEPs by Member State data are from [EP](#). Data sources for page 2: Feeling citizens of the EU data are extrapolated from [Standard Eurobarometer 73](#) (2010) and [Standard Eurobarometer 90](#) (2018); Satisfaction of the European Democracy data are extrapolated from [Standard Eurobarometer 68](#) (2007) and [Standard Eurobarometer 89](#) (2018). CPI is from [Transparency International](#) (2018 Index) and Press Freedom Index is from [Reporters Without Borders](#) (2018 Index). Extraction date: data were extracted in March 2019.

This 'At a glance' note is part of a series 'Living in the EU'. The other issues in the series cover [Climate Change and Energy](#), [Demography](#), [Asylum and Migration](#), [the Economy](#), and [Education and Health](#).

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Press Freedom Index (2018 index)



Note: the Press Freedom Index shows the degree of freedom available to journalists in 180 countries worldwide. It is compiled based on seven indicators: pluralism, media independence, environment and self-censorship, legislative framework, transparency, infrastructure and abuses. It uses a scale between 0 and 100. The lower the value of the index, the higher the level of freedom; and vice versa a high value means a difficult situation in terms of press freedom. The index divides countries into five groups based on their score: Good situation (0-15), Satisfactory (15-25), Problematic (25-35), Difficult (35-55) and Very serious (55-100). As the score 'Very serious' is not attributed to any EU Member State, it is not represented in the graphic.